

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously amended)

8. A cosmetic and/or dermatological preparation comprising an active ingredient in an amount of about 0.01% to about 0.5% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation, wherein the active ingredient is a bile acid or salt thereof ~~wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, salts of mono- or divalent cations of elements from the transition groups, salts of mono- or divalent cations of elements from the lanthanides, salts of mono- or divalent cations of elements from the actinides, salts of ammonium (NH₃), and salts of basic amino acids, wherein said bile acid is selected from the group consisting of dehydrocholic acid, lithocholic acid, cholic acid, glycocholic acid, taurocholic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid and taurocholic acid or a bile acid derivative wherein the derivatization is selected from the group consisting of alkaneammonium having 2 to 9 carbon atoms in total, alkyl- and alkenylammonium having 1 to 22 carbon atoms in total, and pyridine substituted by an alkyl or alkenyl group which has 1 to 18 carbon atoms.~~

Claim 9 (previously amended)

9. The preparation according to Claim 8, further comprising cosmetic or dermatological auxiliaries, antioxidants, UV-A or UV-B filter substances, inorganic pigments, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claims 10-15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously added)

16. The preparation according to Claim 8, wherein the preparation is in an encapsulated form.

Claim 17 (previously added)

17. The preparation according to Claim 16, wherein the encapsulated form is selected from the group consisting of collagen matrices, cellulose encapsulations, gelatin, wax matrices, and liposomal encapsulations.

Claim 18 (currently amended)

18. The preparation according to Claim 16, wherein the preparation encapsulated form is in solution form.

Claim 19 (previously added)

19. A method for strengthening the barrier function of the skin that comprises applying the preparation according to Claim 8 to the skin.

Claim 20 (previously amended)

20. A method for strengthening the barrier function of the skin that comprises applying a barrier strengthening effective amount of a preparation of claim 8 to the skin.

Claim 21 (previously added)

21. The preparation of claim 8, further comprising antioxidants in an amount of 1-10% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation.

Claim 22 (previously added)

22. The preparation of claim 21, wherein said antioxidants are vitamin E and/or derivatives thereof in an amount of 0.001 – 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation.

Claim 23 (previously added)

23. The preparation of claim 22, wherein said vitamin E and/or derivatives thereof is tocopheryl acetate.
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